THE LEGENDARY PRACTICE GROUNDS, "THE THREE CAVERNS". ...THE CENTER IS A PATH FOR THOSE WISHING TO DISCIPLINE THEIR ABLE BODIES.
Memory:71
THE WEST SIDE IS A PATH TO TEST YOUR HEART AND MIND... THE EAST SIDE IS A PATH THAT QUESTIONS THE MASTERY OF YOUR "SKILLS".
SO EVERYONE PICK YOUR TEAMS~
THE THREE OF US WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON THE PATHS YOU CHOOSE.
AH~ I'M SO EXCITED~!
WHICH PATH SHOULD I GO WITH~?
I COULD SWEAR THIS IS THE KIND OF PLACE THAT HAS TRAP AND TRIALS IN IT~
WE'VE GOTTA GUIDE YOU, SO THE FIST OF THE SPRING SUNLIGHT GROUP WON'T BE DETERRED BY THAT KIND OF THING!

SOUNDS GOOD.
HOW ABOUT WE TACKLE IT WITH YOU AND I'S POWER COMBO?
EINHART-SA~N! THE MIDDLE ROUTE SOUNDS LIKE THE PHYSICAL ONE!
OF CO~URSE!
YUMINA-SAN, COULD YOU LEAD US?
YEAH.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN INSIDE, BUT I THINK I STILL REMEMBER THE PATH! I CAN GUIDE US~!
THAT'S OUR RIO-CHAN. WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU~

OF COURSE! I'D LOVE TO!
MIURA-SAN, WE SHOULD DEFINITELY GO TOGETHER~!
YEAH, IT DOES~
A PLACE THAT QUESTIONS THE MASTERY OF OUR SKILLS. THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD BE AN EXCITING SITUATION~!
MICAIAH-SAN!
THEN WOULD YOU TOO LIKE TO COME WITH ME?
AND I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.
YEP~
THEN WE'LL TAKE THE PATH OF THE "HEART".
AH! I WANT TO GO WITH MICAIAH-SENSEI TOO~!
THEN YEN-CHAN WILL COME WITH US TOO.
ALL TOGETHER~

EH~ COME ON. THEY'LL BE FINE.
AH, BUT, I THOUGHT I'D JUST STAY HERE AND TAKE CARE OF THE CATS...
EH!?
AH, YOU CAN COME WITH US IF YOU LIKE, TAO-SAN!
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY IF DEED-SAN'S TAKING CARE OF THEM.
THAT WAY TAO-SAN CAN JOIN THE SEARCH WITH NO RESERVATIONS.
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT TAKING CARE OF THE CATS...
I'M SURE I CAN HANDLE THAT.
AH, OKAY THEN...

TEAM "SKILL"
THEN WE'LL GO WITH THESE LINEUPS FOR THE TEAMS!
TEAM "POWER"
LET'S HEAD INTO THE CAVES~
TEAM "HEART"

YEP!
ALRIGHT~ IT'S ALL GOING WELL SO FAR.

## Memory:71

### ★ Storming in! The Three Caverns! ★

WHAT'S UP?
NOVE-NEESAMA, RINNA-SAN... A BIT OF A STICKY SITUATION HAS COME UP.
THAT'S RIGHT~ WE NEED TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO IRENE!
NOW THAT ALL OF OURS HAVE GOTTEN IN SAFELY... WASN'T YEN-CHAN AND XUE-CHAN'S FRIEND MEETING UP WITH US?
ACTUALLY, THE CHAMPION... SIEGLINDE-SAN HAS ARRIVED IN LUFEN.
HUH!?
WHY IS SHE HERE?
SHE HAS SOME BUSINESS AT THE "FIST OF THE LUSTROUS HUANG DOJO", APPARENTLY... AND EDGAR-SAN IS WITH HER...
EDGAR? NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

SHE IS MY LITTLE SISTER, BUT SHE IS INDEED A BUTLER. SHE IS TRUSTED AS THE LADY OF THE HEAD FAMILY'S GUARD, ESCORT AND EDUCATOR.
EDGAR'S LITTLE SISTER WORKS AT THE FIST OF THE LUSTROUS HUANG DOJO AS A BUTLER~
A BUTLER...? NOT A MAID?

SO SHE INTRODUCED YOU TO THE FIST OF THE LUSTROUS HUANG DOJO?
BEFORE THAT, I'D LIKE TO ASK SOMEONE ACCOMPLISHED IN IT TO PRACTICE WITH. AND WHEN I SAID THAT TO VICTOR...

I'M UP AGAINST A LUFEN MARTIAL ARTIST IN THE FINALS, SO...

WHAT I WANT A SHOT AT IS THE OLD LUFEN "TRADITIONAL STYLE".
RIO-CHAN IS MORE ABOUT PUSHING BACK WITH HER POWERFUL MAGIC~ SHE'S QUITE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM MY OPPONENT.
HM? IF YOU NEEDED A LUFEN MARTIAL ARTIST, WOULDN'T RIO-CHI WORK?
THAT WHICH HAS BEEN INEVITABLY LEFT BEHIND BY MODERN MARTIAL ARTS... THE LOST TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES.
MY NEXT OPPONENT IS SOMEONE WHO CAN TAP INTO THOSE TECHNIQUES.

AND A PERSON STEEPED IN THOSE TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES IS LIKE A LIVING JEWEL. I WANT TO MEET THEM, INTERACT WITH THEM, AND SPEAK WITH THEM IF I CAN.
SO I DON'T LOSE TO THEM... I WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL DEAL FOR MYSELF.

PRETTY GREEDY FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY THE WORLD CHAMPION.

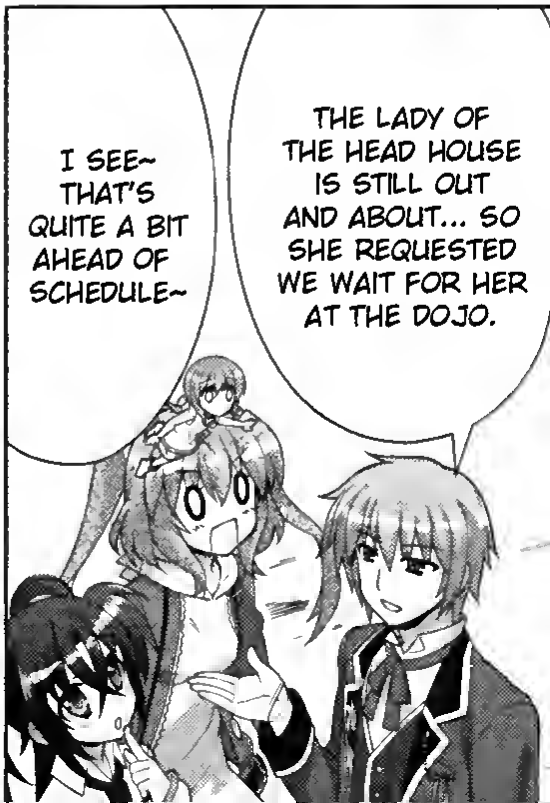
THERE ARE TONS OF STRONG PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
THAT WAS THE YEAR BEFORE LAST. I'M NOT THE CHAMPION NOW.
YOU MIGHT EVEN BECOME A FORMIDABLE RIVAL BY NEXT YEAR, SISTER-CHAN.
IF I JUST BIDED MY TIME AS I AM NOW... I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE "JEREMIAH" STYLE LEFT TO ME.
...WELL I PLANNED TO DO THAT ANYWAY.

YEP, THANKS.
THOUGH LADY CHANTEZ AND LADY IX ARE HEADING TO THE FIST OF THE SPRING SUNLIGHT DOJO

LADIES. THE PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE ARE COMPLETE.

WE ARE?
LADY SIEGLINDE AND I WILL BE HEADING THERE AS WELL.

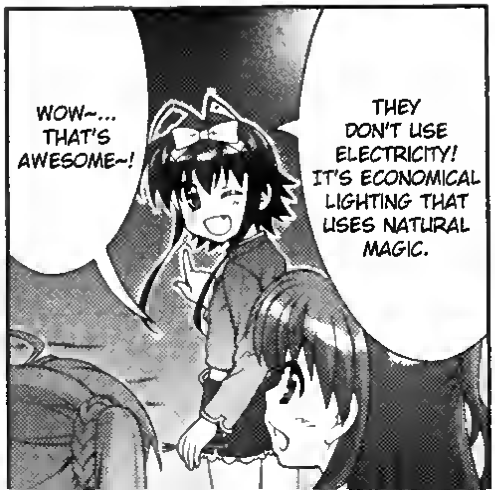
GOOD LORD...
THEN I GUESS WE'LL BE TRAVELLING TOGETHER A LITTLE LONGER~ LET'S TALK SOME MORE, IX-SAMA~


I SEE~ THAT'S QUITE A BIT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE~
THE LADY OF THE HEAD HOUSE IS STILL OUT AND ABOUT... SO SHE REQUESTED WE WAIT FOR HER AT THE DOJO.

I FINALLY GOT THIS VACATION... AND NOW THIS OMINOUS FEELING...
GEH... RAIN CLOUDS?

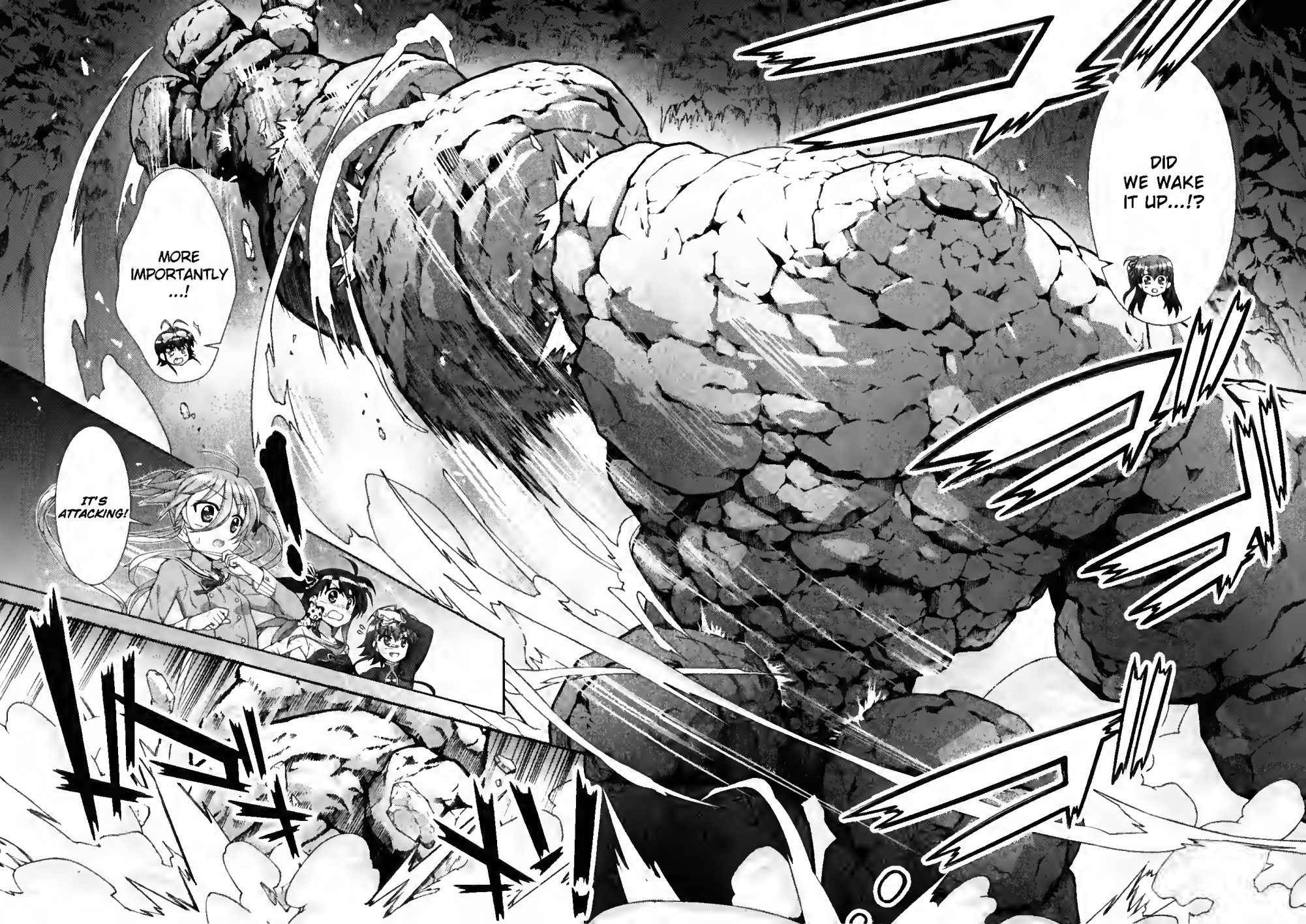
Around the Same Time
Three Caverns "Power" Route
THAT'S RIGHT~
IT'S ACTUALLY LIT.

SO THERE SHOULD BE A SPACE WITH TRAINING APPARATUSES FURTHER IN...


WOW~... THAT'S AWESOME~!
THEY DON'T USE ELECTRICITY! IT'S ECONOMICAL LIGHTING THAT USES NATURAL MAGIC.

HUH!? WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS~?
UM, IS THERE A SWITCH OR SOMETHING...?
UUH ...
HOLD ON. I'LL MAKE SOME LIGHT.
NOW I CAN SEE JUST FINE.
YEP!
MMM... IS THIS THE SWITCH?
CLICK!
EH...?

ゴゴゴゴ…
I-I didn't know about anything like this~!
RIO-CHAN, RIO-CHAN!?


DID WE WAKE IT UP...!?
MORE IMPORTANTLY ...!
IT'S ATTACKING!

TH... THAT WAS CLOSE ...!
YEAH...
IS THAT THIS PATH'S "TRIAL"?
I WONDER? BUT IT SURE LOOKS RARING TO GO~!
YUMINA-SAN... IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS GOING TO BE A BIT OF A FIGHT, BUT WE'LL BE FINE.
RIO-SAN!
YEAH! LET'S GET THAT GOLEM~!
AH... RIGHT!

Around the Same Time
Three Caverns "Heart" Route
DO YOU FEEL THAT... SHAKING JUST NOW?
AND THAT RUMBLING SOUND...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN ON ONE OF THE OTHER ROUTES?
SEEMS SO... LET'S TRY TO CONTACT THEM.
THIS NOISE...
ISN'T IT GETTING CLOSER...?
!!

..ｶﾗ
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ｽﾞﾙ
NO, IT'S PROBABLY...
WHAT IS THAT? A MONSTER?
THERE'S SO MANY!
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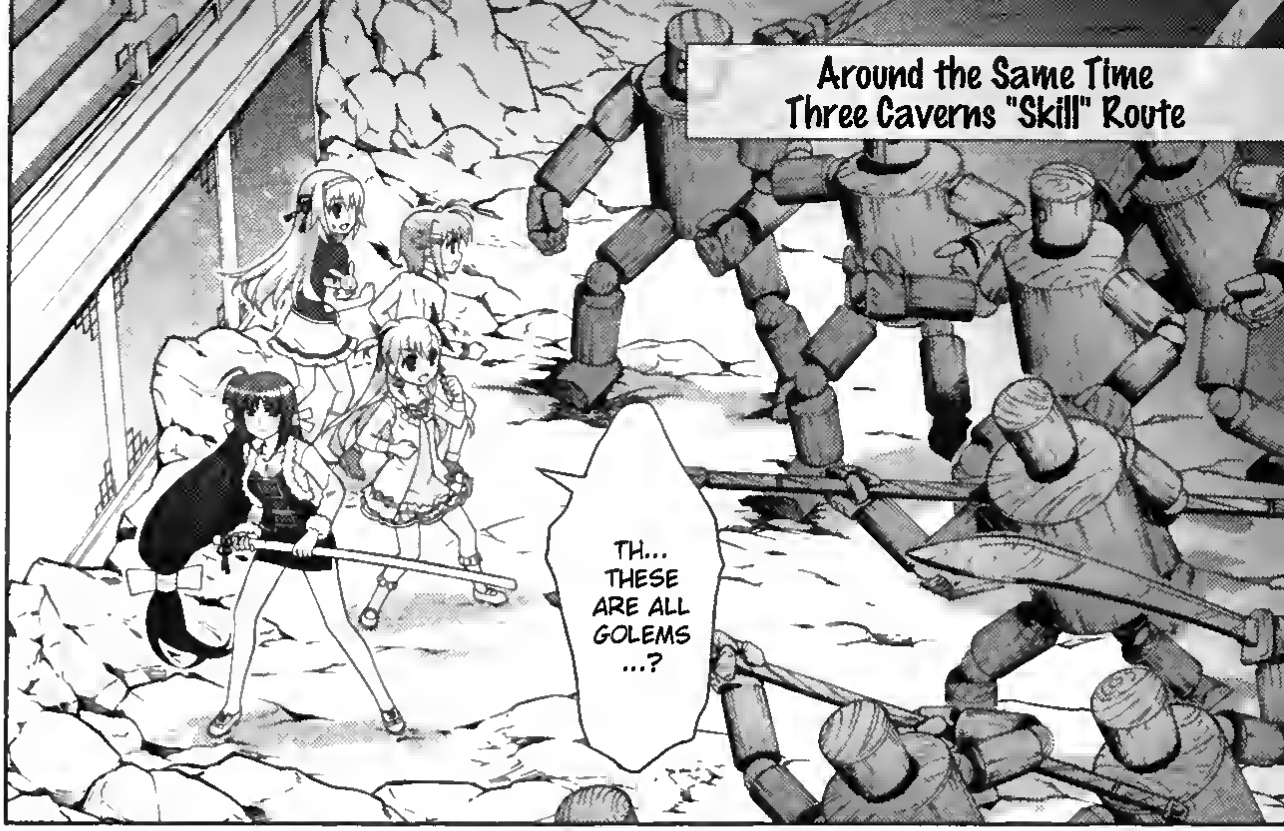
ｽﾞﾙ
THEY'RE OVER HERE TOO...!
GOLEMS! ISN'T THAT JUST AS BAD?
THEIR BODIES ARE MADE OF LIQUID, BUT THEY'RE GOLEMS!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! I KNOW QUITE A LOT ABOUT GOLEMS!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THIS PATH'S TRIAL IS ALL ABOUT, BUT... WE'LL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO CUT OUR WAY THROUGH.
O... OKAY!
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT~!


Around the Same Time
Three Caverns "Skill" Route
TH... THESE ARE ALL GOLEMS ...?

I SEE... SO THESE ARE THIS ROUTE'S TRIAL.
UM, I THINK THEY MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE USED THESE "WOOD MEN" AND "MUD MEN" IN THE PAST AS TRAINING PARTNERS IN ORDER TO GET ACTUAL COMBAT EXPERIENCE...

HERE WE GO STAR SA...

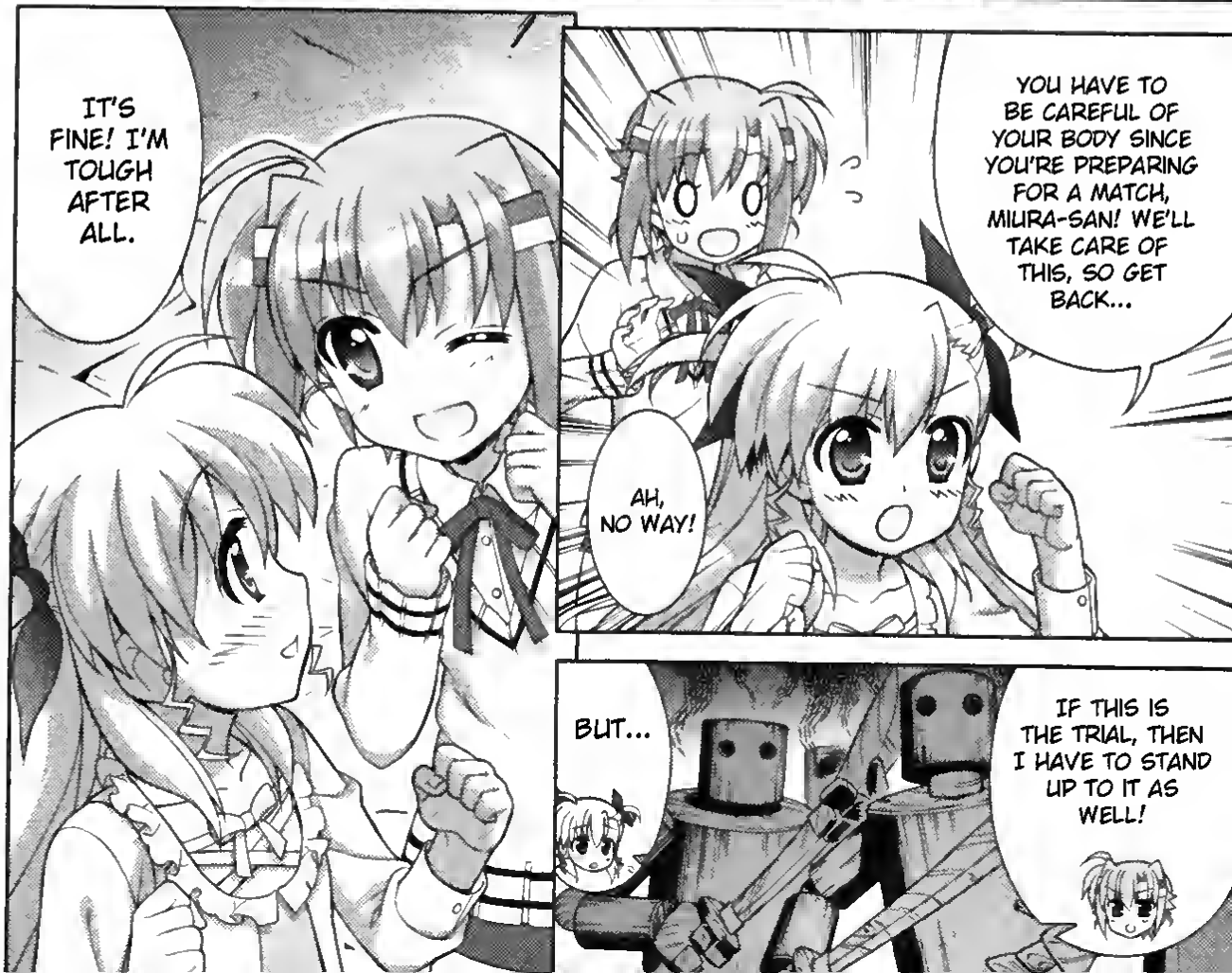
THEY'VE GOT US SURROUNDED TOO. WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK THROUGH.
RIGHT!

CHRIS!
WHOOPS...!
!?

IN OTHER WORDS, WE'LL HAVE TO USE THESE TOOLS AND OUR OWN BODIES...

I SEE. SINCE THIS IS A TEST OF OUR SKILLS, RELYING ON OUR DEVICES IS FORBIDDEN.
STAR SABER~
AWAWA! CHRIS~!

TO CUT THROUGH THIS TRIAL.
WE'LL HAVE TO DO WHAT WE CAN!


IT'S FINE! I'M TOUGH AFTER ALL.
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL OF YOUR BODY SINCE YOU'RE PREPARING FOR A MATCH, MIURA-SAN! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS, SO GET BACK...
AH, NO WAY!
BUT...
IF THIS IS THE TRIAL, THEN I HAVE TO STAND UP TO IT AS WELL!

WATCH OUT YOU TWO~!

ヒィッ!
ドン!

HERE WE GO!

THOSE TWO ARE AWESOME.
THAT THEY ARE.
I'M SURE ALL THE OTHERS ARE TRYING HARD AS WELL, SO WE CAN'T LOSE HERE.
OH YEAH!

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